

## ***Welcome to Bicycling!***

Riding a bike is a fun, healthy activity that is enjoyed by many people. Learning the traffic and trail rules will allow riding to be as safe as possible. Experienced bicyclists who follow the rules are up to 20 times safer than novice bicyclists.

### **Missouri Bicycle Requirements**

- In Missouri, bicycles and motorized bicycles may ride on any street or shoulder except travel lanes of interstate highways or where prevented by a local law. (Motorized bicycles must be licensed as mopeds.)
- Bicyclists have the same rules, rights and responsibilities as other drivers. For example, bicyclists must stop at stop signs and drive on the right-hand side of the road. Anyone riding slower than the speed limit shall stay as far to the right-hand side as safe.
- Anyone riding between sunset and sunrise must have a headlight on the front, a red reflector or tail light on the back, reflective material or a light on the moving parts of the bicyclist or bike and reflective material or lights on the sides of the bike.
- All bikes must have brakes that work.
- Bicycles may be ridden on sidewalks except in busy downtown areas and where prevented by local law. Pedestrians have the right of way and bicyclists must alert walkers by voice, horn or bell. Motorized bicycles may not be ridden on sidewalks.
- No bicyclist may hold onto another vehicle.
- Use turn and stop hand signals (see Sections 304.019 and 307.192, RSMo) at

all times when operating a bicycle or motorized bicycle on Missouri streets and highways.

*For more information, see the Revised Statutes of Missouri Sections 300.347, 300.350, 304.019, 307.183, 307.185, 307.188, 307.190, 307.191, 307.192, 307.193, 307.195. See also city and county traffic ordinances.*

### **On-Road Safety Suggestions**

- Wear safety gear... *Always* wear a helmet. Wearing sunglasses, gloves and bike shorts are a good idea, too.
- Obey the law... Not stopping at a stop sign is dangerous and makes motorists feel that bicyclists aren't being fair.
- People in cars have someplace to go... don't hold them up without cause.
- Night-time reduces visibility... Bicyclists should have bright lights and wear reflective clothing.
- Ride single file in traffic... State law allows bicyclists to ride side-by-side, but **only** when not impeding -- blocking or slowing down -- other vehicles. Otherwise, ride single file to the right as far as safe.

### **Off-Road Trail Rules**

- Plan ahead... Be familiar with equipment, riding ability and the ride location. Always wear a helmet and appropriate safety gear.
- Ride on open trails only... Don't trespass on private land (including Federal and state wilderness areas).
- Leave no trace... Do not ride on wet and muddy trails. Stay on existing trails--no creating new ones.
- Control the bicycle and obey all bicycle speed limits.
- Always yield the trail... Call a greeting or use a bell, but don't startle other users. Stop if necessary to allow others to pass.
- Never scare animals... Be quiet and follow directions from equestrians. Never chase animals. Leave gates as found or as signs instruct.
- Pre-ride check... Inflate tires, check brakes, carry a repair kit and insure the tire pump works. Include a tire repair kit, spare inner tube or repair kit, bike multi-tool, chain tool, tire pump and lubrication oil.